IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In Re the Application of

SAORI NISHIMURA Group Art Unit: 2876

Application No.: 10/015,667 Examiner: Jared Fureman

Filed: December 17, 2001 Confirmation No.: 5115

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

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Respectfully Submitted

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| | | | Application Number | 10/015,667 | | |
| | INFORMATION | DISCLOSURE | Filing Date | 12/17/2001 | | |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | First Named Inventor | SAORI NISHIMURA | | |
| | OTATEMENT E | ALLICANI | Art Unit | 2876 Jared Fureman | | |
| | (Use as many she | ets as necessary) | Examiner Name | | | |
| She | eet 1 | of | Attorney Docket Number | 008312-0290482 | | |

| Examiner | Cite | Document Number | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant | |
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| Initials* | No. ¹ | Number-Kind Code ^{2 (if known)} | MM-DD-YYYY | Applicant of Cited Document | Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Foreign Patent Document Country Code ^{3—} Number ^{4—} Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | т' |
| | | 2001-88478 | 04/03/01 | TOSHIBA CORP | | X |
| | | 11-085919 | 3/30/99 | TOSHIBA CORP | | X |
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.